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## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. T. C. DU PONT has given \$500,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology toward its proposed new site. Announcement is also made of two bequests of about this amount: a trust fund of between five hundred and six hundred thousand dollars, created by Francis B. Greene some five years ago, will be received by the institute for the assistance of students, and it will receive nearly \$500,000 from the bequest of Mrs. Emma Rogers, widow of William B. Rogers, the first president of the institute. These large gifts in addition to the \$100,000 for ten years appropriated by the state, will make it possible for the institute to purchase a new site and erect the necessary buildings.

By the will of Mrs. Lydia Augusta Barnard, of Milton, Mass., Radcliffe College received \$75,000 for a dormitory and \$40,000 for scholarships, and Harvard University receives \$60,000 for the study of jurisprudence and legislation.

THE Harvard College corporation has voted to approve the establishment of a school for advanced instruction in medicine in general accordance with a plan proposed by the Faculty of Medicine; the intention is that the school shall go into operation at the beginning of the academic year 1912-13, that it shall have a separate dean and administrative board, and that it shall ultimately absorb the Summer School of Medicine. Instruction in the school is to be provided if possible by the existing departments of the Medical School, but, if necessary, instructors will be appointed specifically for giving instruction in the new school. The courses of instruction will consist of all-day courses, intermittent courses and research courses.

THE preamble of the statute exempting students in natural science and mathematics from examination in Greek passed congregation at Oxford on May 16 by a vote of 156 to 79.

PLANS for the extension of the work of the department of physiology of Columbia University are being carried out. Three additions to the staff have been made: Frank H.

Pike, of Chicago University, to be assistant professor; Horatio B. Williams, of Cornell, to be an associate, and Donald Gordon to be an instructor. Dr. Williams is spending the summer in Europe visiting several laboratories and arranging for the purchase of apparatus for electrocardiographic and other work. Professor Burton-Opitz will have charge of the instruction of the medical students and Professor Pike of much of the work in general physiology. A course in clinical physiology, dealing with the application of physiological methods to problems of clinical medicine has been established. Changes in the laboratories will be made during the present summer. The income of the George G. Wheelock Fund is to be devoted to the extension of the library. The chief professorship of physiology, held by Frederic S. Lee, has been entitled the Dalton Professorship, in memory of John C. Dalton, who was in point of time the first experimental physiologist of America and gave distinguished services to the Columbia School of Medicine for thirty-five years.

DR. S. O. MAST, professor of botany at Goucher College, has resigned in order to accept an associate professorship in zoology in the Johns Hopkins University. He will take up the duties connected with his new position at the opening of the next school year.

AT the University of California J. G. Fitzgerald has been appointed associate professor of bacteriology; J. Frank Darnel, assistant professor of zoology, and A. U. Pope, assistant professor of philosophy. Instructors have been appointed as follows: C. J. Lewis, in philosophy; Frank Irwin and Thomas Buck, in mathematics; C. L. Baker, in mineralogy and geology; D. W. Morehouse, in astronomy.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

## THE TEST OF VITALISM

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Such attempted definitions of vitalism as those furnished by your correspondents fail to give a clear conception of the idea usually conveyed by the word. Its real significance, I think, is better